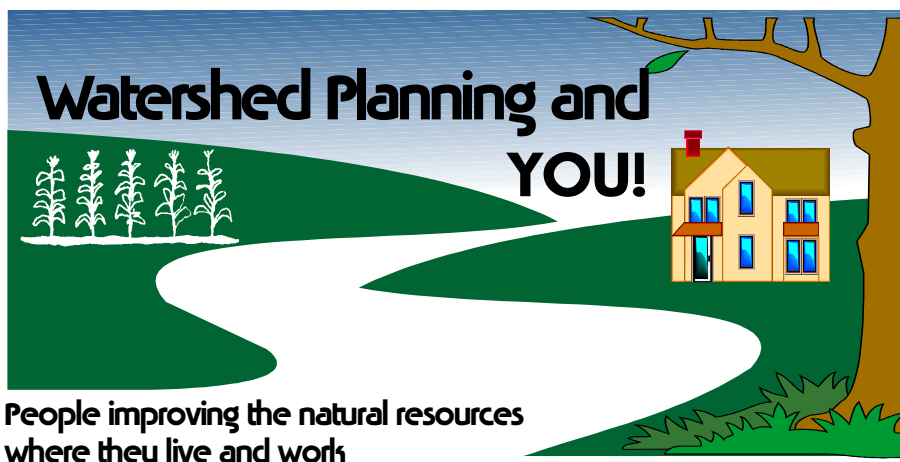


This newsletter is designed to facilitate watershed and resource planning, to provide education on the importance and need for natural resource protection, and to bring together local people and partners for successful planning efforts in northeastern Illinois.



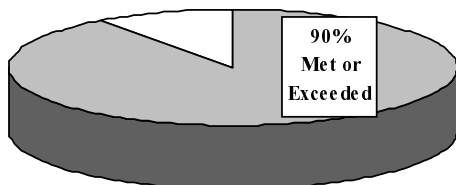
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service www.il.nrcs.usda.gov

Volume 1, 2001

NPDES Phase II Watershed Workshops Well Received

Representatives of 47 different local units of government gave overwhelmingly positive reviews of workshops on National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II rules and the Watershed Planning Process in Joliet, Sycamore and Bloomington this fall. The primary focus of the workshops was to raise awareness of water quality issues and introduce technology and policy tools that help local governments address these problems. The workshops were cosponsored by NRCS, IEPA, University of Illinois Extension, local SWCD's and other local organizations.

EXPECTATIONS



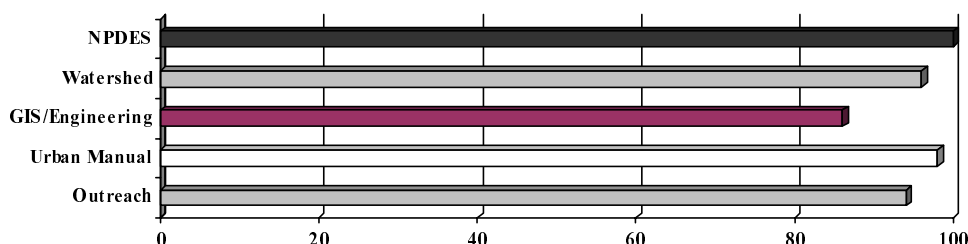
Participants completed reviews of the workshop to see if a need was met and to help sponsors direct future efforts. Of the 82 participants, 90% said that their expectations were met or exceeded, and none responded that the workshop failed to meet expectations.

More than 86% rated the specific topics as useful to very useful and requested more in-depth information in the future. Over 98% of participants indicated that they were likely to attend ensuing workshops.

These results clearly show that local governments are looking for a strong problem-solving vehicle to help find answers to complex natural resource questions and to address the associated economic and traditional infrastructure concerns. With watershed planning, NRCS and our partners can deliver the tools communities need to solve these problems.

*Submitted by Don Fehrenbacher
NRCS Resource Soil Scientist*

TOPICS USEFUL TO VERY USEFUL



H & H Modeling at Brewster Run

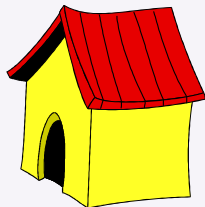
A Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H & H) Model will soon help the Brewster Run Watershed Planning Committee evaluate the present water flow as well as the impact of proposed future improvements made to reduce flooding, a major concern within the watershed. NRCS is assisting the engineering consultant (the Farnsworth Group), the Village of Dwight, IDNR-OWR, and watershed residents in this cooperative effort to develop the H & H model.

To date, the Farnsworth Group has completed the field survey work, and IDNR-OWR has installed stage gages at key points along the creek. The Village distributed data sheets, asking residents throughout the watershed to record dates, times, and amounts of rainfall as it occurs. As it becomes available, the rainfall and stream gage data will be used for refinement of the model's calibration. NRCS is currently developing the H & H model, which nears completion. Calibrations are being made to match input data to flood elevations that occurred during the major 1998 storm event.

The H & H model is the tool the Brewster Run Watershed Planning Committee needs to thoroughly evaluate the alternatives--to look forward in time to see the effects of possible improvements on water flows both upstream and downstream.

*Submitted by Jerry Leonard
NRCS Agricultural Engineer*

Notes from the Shed



The *People* Involved in Watershed Planning

A successful watershed plan requires the involvement of many people who best know the resource concerns, problems, and opportunities within their watershed. Broad representation strengthens community support, visibility, and funding opportunities and also helps to implement a comprehensive plan that achieves the communities' goals.

People should represent all ecological, economic, and social concerns within the area. They bring to the table their concerns, interests, and associated resources. These resources may include leadership, media exposure, desired viewpoints, access to funding, technical expertise, local knowledge, and other business and management skills.

Watershed planning occurs when people who have an interest in the health of their environment use a process that integrates the concept of locally-led conservation.

Tom Krapf
Resource Planning Specialist



A Note from the FOD3 ASTC...

NRCS is excited to announce the opening of the Plainfield office (313 Naperville Rd. Suite J) specializing in watershed planning for Field Office District (FOD) 3.

This office will provide technical assistance through the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts for watershed planning activities in northeastern Illinois. The office will be home to the following four existing FOD specialists: Tom Krapf, Resource Planning Specialist; Don Fehrenbacher, Resource Soil Scientist; Keith Eichorst, Community Planner; and Gina Gericke, Community Planner. Joel Schmidt will be coming from FOD4 to fill the engineer position. In the next few months, the Geographic Information System (GIS) position will also be filled.

Surveys to over 70 communities in northeastern Illinois helped determine what urban conservation products will come out of this office. The products will include GIS layers, watershed management, and engineering best management practices (BMP) projects.

These services can be obtained by contacting your local NRCS/SWCD office.

Tessa Chadwick
NRCS Assistant State Conservationist



Directory

Belvidere Office

PH: (815) 544-2677

Grundy Office

PH: (815) 942-0359

Ottawa Office

PH: (815) 433-0551

Sycamore Office

PH: (815) 756-3236

Bourbonnais Office

PH: (815) 937-3233

Lake County Office

PH: (847) 223-1056

Paxton Office

PH: (217) 379-2371

Watseka Office

PH: (815) 432-3946

Champaign Office

PH: (217) 398-5201

Lincoln Office

PH: (217) 735-5508

Pontiac Office

PH: (815) 844-6127

Woodstock Office

PH: (815) 338-0099

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St. Charles Office

PH: (630) 584-8240

NRCS State Office

PH: (217) 353-6600

Decatur Office

PH: (217) 877-5670

Normal Office

PH: (309) 452-0830

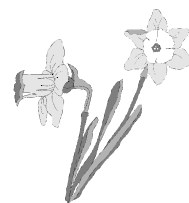
Streamwood Office

PH: (847) 468-0071

Would you like to receive "Watershed Planning and You"? Provide us the information below to get on our mailing list!

Name _____
Organization/Affiliation _____
Address _____
Phone _____

This newsletter is published quarterly by USDA NRCS. Send correspondence or questions to: Tom Krapf, Senior Editor at (815) 756-3236; tom.krapf@il.usda.gov or Gina Gericke, Editor at (815) 462-3106; gina.gericke@il.usda.gov.



WATERSHED PROFILE:

Silver Creek

Description

Silver Creek is a very unique watershed in that it is 100% urbanized and industrialized. Has anyone heard of Mrs. Dash seasonings or VO5 products? Alberto Culver, a leading manufacturer of such products, resides in the Silver Creek Watershed as does O'Hare International Airport. The area houses several major operations and, as a result, full build-out in the watershed has been accomplished.

Silver Creek is a tributary to the Des Plaines River and drains 12.4 square miles (7,947 acres). Silver Creek begins just south of O'Hare Airport and flows south and east until reaching the river. Some parts of the creek are actually channeled underground, only to reappear further downstream.

Counties

Cook and DuPage

Municipalities

Melrose Park, Franklin Park, Bensenville, Woodale, Northlake, and Chicago

Federal Congressional Districts

4, 5, 6

IL Senatorial Districts

23, 39

IL Representative District

46, 77, 78

Population

47,000

(Estimate from 1990 Census)

Land Uses (Estimated)

Urban- 100%

- Residential-30%
- Industrial-30%
- Commercial-20%
- Transportation & Utility-10%
- Other-10%

Planning Committee

Co-Chairs

Ronald M. Serpico, Mayor of Melrose Park
Mike Triplett

General Resource Concerns

- ✓ Bank Erosion
- ✓ Flooding
- ✓ Maintenance
- ✓ Lack of Funding
- ✓ Education Outreach

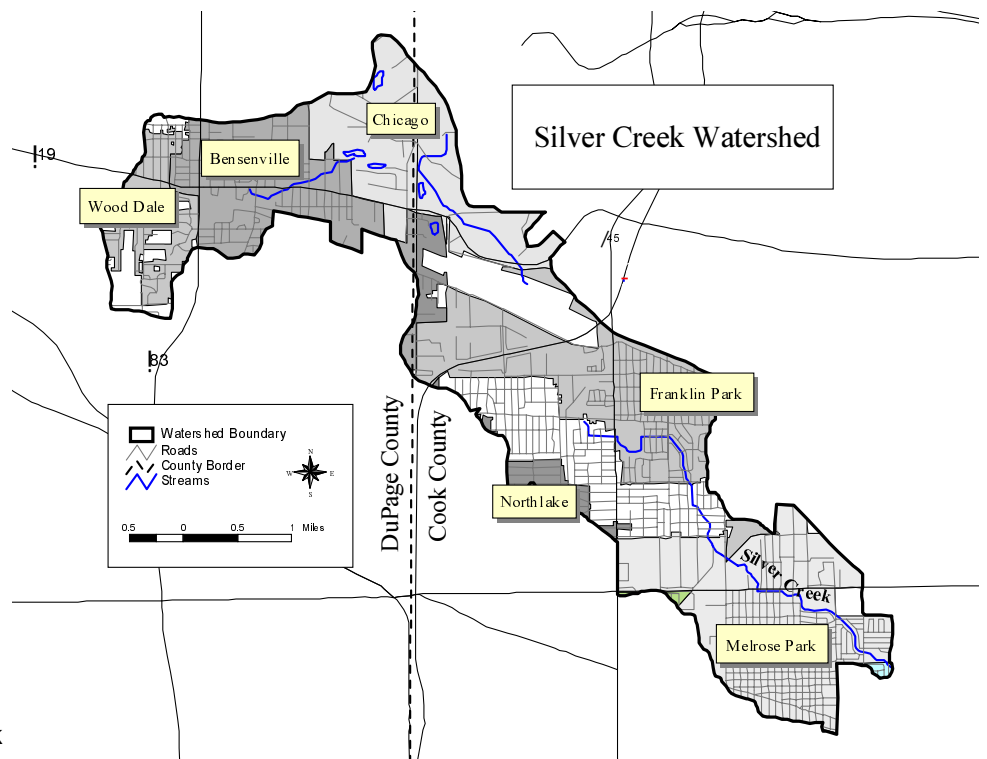
Lead County Field Office

North Cook County NRCS and SWCD Office

Contact: Dawn Hubbard or Rick McAndless

Activities to Date

- The Silver Creek Watershed website
- Water Quality Testing, an ongoing project
- Watershed Tour





Stakeholders



Augie Woods

When a six-inch plus rainfall in June of 1998 flooded Brewster Run Creek and caused extensive damage to his hometown, Augie Woods got involved. His neighbors' homes, as well as his own, suffered damage from flooding in the Village of Dwight.

He organized local homeowners to form a stakeholder committee with the goal of preventing further damage to homes and businesses as a result of any future storm event. Augie was selected to represent residents' concerns to the Village Board and the Brewster Run Watershed Planning Committee.

Augie was instrumental in compiling flood damage assessments for the damaged homes as part of the Inventory and Evaluation phase of the planning process. He attends Technical Advisory Committee meetings and relays information back to the local stakeholders, keeping them informed of the planning process.

Augie, a 46-year resident of Dwight, is retired from Caterpillar Inc. after a 27-year career specializing in hydraulics. His goal in working with the Brewster Run Watershed is to eliminate flood damage in the watershed, now and in the future. He is dedicated to the project and commits much of his free time to the effort. Why does Augie Woods dedicate so much time to the Watershed Planning effort? "I want to help save my neighbors' homes."

Partnership Champions

Partnership



Bob Rung

Instead of enrolling in college right after high school, Bob served with the US Army as a field Medic in Viet Nam where he earned the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Combat Medics Badge. After returning to the states in 1968, he enrolled in Northern Illinois University majoring as a Fisheries Biologist, but withdrew in 1971 to open and operate his own pet shop.

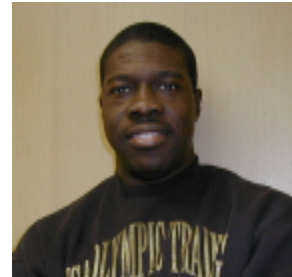
While running the pet store, Bob collected and maintained native fishes and studied fish taxonomy, aquatic ecology, and fisheries management in his free time. "I have been fascinated with fish since I was a young child," Bob recalls.

In 1986, Bob accepted a position as a Fisheries Technician with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. In 1990, he reenrolled in NIU. Year-round, Bob worked over 40 hours per week and attended classes on nights and weekends. He completed his Bachelor's with an emphasis in Ecology in the spring of 1993, sharing the credit with an understanding and supportive wife. Bob recalls, "What a thrill it was to wear the cap and gown and, with my wife and children watching, receive my degree."

Bob became a District Fisheries Biologist for Will and Kankakee Counties in 1994 and, in 1997, was promoted to his current position as Streams Biologist for Northeast Illinois. Nearly 30 years after first enrolling in college, Bob Rung achieved the career he had always envisioned for himself.



NRCS/SWCD



Lewis Nichols

Lewis' interest in conservation can be traced back to high school in East St. Louis, which ironically offered very few classes in agriculture. However, the school did offer a greenhouse course which Lewis thoroughly enjoyed. He went on to study horticulture and turf management at the community college.

Lewis' career began as a summer job with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in 1979. After that summer, he was offered a Co-op Student Trainee position, allowing him to work each summer while in college. In 1985, Lewis graduated from Western Illinois University, earning a BS in Agronomy with an emphasis on Conservation. He then began his full-time position with SCS at the Livingston County Field Office. In 1989 he became, and is today, the District Conservationist (D.C.) in Boone County.

As DC, Lewis has assisted many farmers with the installation and use of conservation practices. Currently, he is working on watershed plans for Piscasaw and Beaver Creeks. He enjoys bringing local people together to work on watershed planning activities. These efforts have paid off with a new sediment and erosion control ordinance, which is critical in the rapidly growing county.

Lewis feels he has been blessed to work with many great NRCS DC's, SWCD Boards, and staff throughout his career. What he enjoys most, however, is the feeling he gets from producers who thank him for working on soil and water related problems on their farms. "I feel I am making a difference for everyone, now and in the future," said Lewis.

The First Ingredient in the Planning Process... the Stakeholders

It is time to assemble a Planning Committee of stakeholders after an initial assessment indicates that resource planning can help address the resource concerns in your community.

Stakeholders are people who live, work or play in the watershed and have an interest in or may be affected by actions recommended in the resource management plan. They should be individuals who can represent group considerations as well as their individual concerns, serve as decision makers in the watershed, and understand and express the different views, opinions, and interests in the planning area. Planning Committee members could be:

- Residents
- Landowners
- Farm owners and operators
- Municipal, county and township officials
- Business and industry representatives
- Environmental and conservation groups
- Other special interest representatives

Hold one or two pre-planning meetings to educate the group about the resource planning process. The Committee may then determine whether a resource plan is needed and if they wish to participate in its development. Once this core group commits to the project, they may expand their numbers and invite any critical stakeholder who was overlooked.



Calendar of Events

March 20 Environmental Education in Your Community, the Poplar Creek Planning Committee. Call the North Cook SWCD/NRCS office at (847) 608-8165.

April 2 Watershed Task Force Meeting, Plainfield NRCS Office, 10:00.

April 4 Illinois Farmland Protection Training Workshop, DeKalb County Farm Bureau, DeKalb. 9:00-3:00. Call Joe Bybee at (815) 753-9660 for more information. Register at (815) 756-3236.

April 5 Illinois Farmland Protection Training Workshop, Northfield Inn and Suites, Springfield. 9:00-3:00. Call Joe Bybee at (815) 753-9660 for more information. Register at (815) 756-3236.

May 12 2nd Poplar Creek Watershed Student Congress. Call the North Cook SWCD/NRCS office at (847) 608-8165.

June 2 DuPage River Sweep 2001. Call (630) 428-4500.

June 9 Poplar Creek Clean-Up Day. Call the North Cook SWCD/NRCS office at (847) 608-8165.

Salt Creek Lectures Coming This Spring:

April 2 "Volunteer Monitoring Programs in Salt Creek." Brought to you by Illinois Ecowatch programs and the Sierra Club

May 5 "Recreational Opportunities Throughout the Salt Creek Watershed." Information from local forest preserves and park districts

June 4 "Protecting Nature- an Action Plan for Local Governments." Featuring Dennis Dreher, Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission

For more information call the North Cook SWCD/NRCS office at (847) 608-8165.

Although the Planning Committees should not exceed 15 individuals, this does not exclude the public from decisions. Residents and others with an interest in the watershed have an opportunity to provide input during the planning process. At a minimum, public input is critical when developing resource concerns, objectives, and alternative strategies.

NRCS staff assists the pre-planning and planning activities, and the Resource Planning Guidebook provides additional aid. However, only the work of the stakeholders will bring the plan to life and put it into action.

Find the Resource Planning Guidebook on the web at: www.il.nrcs.usda.gov

*Submitted by Gina Gericke
NRCS Community Planner*

Watersheds on the Web



Adopt-a-Watershed: www.adopt-a-watershed.org

Center for Watershed Protection: www.cwp.org

Des Plaines Watershed Alliance:
www.desplainswatershed.org/alliance/links.html

EPA Surf Your Watershed: www.epa.gov/surf

Fox River Ecosystem Partnership:
www.foxriverecosystem.org

Illinois Watershed Management Clearinghouse:
web.aces.uiuc.edu/watershed

Kishwaukee River Watershed: www.mcdef.org/kwke.htm

Salt Creek Watershed (COMING SOON):
www.saltcreek.org

Silver Creek Watershed: www.silvercreekwatershed.com

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service:
www.il.nrcs.usda.gov

Wisconsin-Illinois Upper Des Plaines River Ecosystem Partnership:
homepage.interaccess.com/~niwca/desplaines.htm

Finley Creek

The Newest Planning Committee in the Lake Decatur Watershed

Lake Decatur serves not only as the primary source of drinking water for a growing community, but it is also utilized by a large number of industries in and around the City of Decatur. Close to 925 square miles of land drain into Lake Decatur, and planning for such a large watershed is complex. To protect this valuable resource and to address the numerous and varying concerns, local communities and stakeholders are forming planning committees on a sub-watershed basis.

Finley Creek, which contributes approximately 23,000 acres of drainage to Lake Decatur, is the second sub-watershed to be assessed with this approach. This area is primarily in agriculture, but also includes the growing village of Mt. Zion. The Finley Creek Planning Committee recently formed to recognize the diverse issues and concerns of this watershed. The Natural Resources Conservation Service is assisting the process.

The planning committee is made up of local farmers, village officials, and businesses in the community. Each member brings an important aspect of the watershed and community to the table during this planning process.

*Submitted by Karen Brinkman
NRCS District Conservationist*

Who Is a *Stakeholder*?

A stakeholder is any individual or group with an interest in the watershed or resource management plan. These partners may live, work or play in the watershed.

To learn more about the role of a stakeholder, visit Augie Woods, Champion Stakeholder on page 4 and read "The First Ingredient in the Planning Process... the Stakeholders" on page 5.

Milestones in the Little Vermilion River Watershed

Putting Practices on the Land

In late September, the LaSalle County SWCD was awarded an Illinois Department of Natural Resources Conservation 2000 grant in the Illinois River Bluffs Ecosystem Partnership. The grant will help restore native habitats, improve water quality, and increase nesting cover in the Little Vermilion River Watershed by providing seed and shrubs at no cost to landowners who are interested in the restoration of critical areas within the watershed.

Watershed Tour

A bus tour of the Little Vermilion Watershed was held on November 4th. The tour featured various stops within the watershed, from its origin north of Mendota to its confluence with the Illinois River in LaSalle.

Mission Statement

Recently, the Little Vermilion Watershed Local Planning Committee appointed officers and developed a mission statement for the project:

The mission of the Little Vermilion River Watershed Local Planning Committee is to work in partnership with governmental agencies, local communities, and stakeholders to develop proactive watershed management directives, goals, and techniques for the Little Vermilion River Watershed in an effort to maximize water, soil, air quality, enhance biodiversity, and ensure stream structure stability.

*Submitted by Matt Stafford
SWCD Resource Conservationist*



Arnie Leader of the USEPA discusses water quality issues with watershed tour participants at the Little Vermilion River on LaSalle County Highway 13, just south of Troy Grove.

- FOD 2**
1. Bass and Indian Watershed
 2. Big Creek
 3. Blount Creek Watershed
 4. Cache River Watershed
 5. Casey Fork
 6. Eagle Creek Watershed
 7. Forbes/Kimberly Lake
 8. Horseshoe Lake
 9. Judy's Branch
 10. Kinross Lake
 11. Lake Branch
 12. Little Egypt (Southeast Illinois)
 13. Lusk Creek
 14. Powermill Creek
 15. Sane Road
 16. South-west Illinois Karst
 17. Sugar Creek
 18. Washington County Lake
 19. Village of Pulaski, Union, Hodge Park, & Sandusky

- FOD 3**
46. Aux Sable Creek
 47. Beaver Creek
 48. Big Rock Creek
 49. Blackberry Creek
 50. Brewster Run Creek
 51. Ferson-Otter
 52. Fox Hills Creek
 53. Iniquity River Basin
 54. Lake Bloomington
 55. Lake Decatur (Phase 2)
 56. Little Vermilion River (CHAMPAIGN CO.)
 57. Little Vermilion River (LA SALLE COUNTY)
 58. Long Run Creek
 59. Mackinaw River WS
 60. Niopere Creek
 61. North Branch Chicago River
 62. North Fork Vermilion River
 63. North Oakley Township
 64. Piusness Creek
 65. Poplar Creek
 66. Red Creek
 67. Red Fork (Champaign Co.)
 68. Sand Creek (Lake Decatur, Phase 1)
 69. Silver Creek
 70. Tyler Creek
 71. Upper Des Plaines River
 72. Upper DuPage River
 73. Upper Embarras River Basin
 74. Upper Sangamon River
 75. Wabasha Creek
 76. Willow Creek
 77. Vermilion River Ecosystem Partnership *
 78. Upper Rock River Ecosystem Partnership *
 79. Kishwaukee River Ecosystem Partnership *
 80. Fox River Ecosystem Partnership *
 81. Upper Des Plaines Ecosystem Partnership *
 82. Kankakee River Ecosystem Partnership *
 83. Village of Waukegan

- FOD 4**
78. Apple Canyon Lake
 79. Argyle Lake
 80. Camp Creek
 81. Carbon Cliff
 82. Coppans Creek
 83. Court Creek
 84. Crow Creek (West)
 85. Elba Creek
 86. Farm Creek
 87. Honey Creek
 88. Indian Creek
 89. Little Missouri Hydrologic Unit
 90. Lake Mistake
 91. McKee Watershed
 92. Mud Creek
 93. Plum River
 94. Sand Lake
 95. Seneca Creek
 96. Shelby Creek
 97. Upper Panther Creek Watershed
 98. Illinois River Bluffs Ecosystem Partnership
 99. Crittice Area Ecosystem Partnership
 100. Northwest Alliance

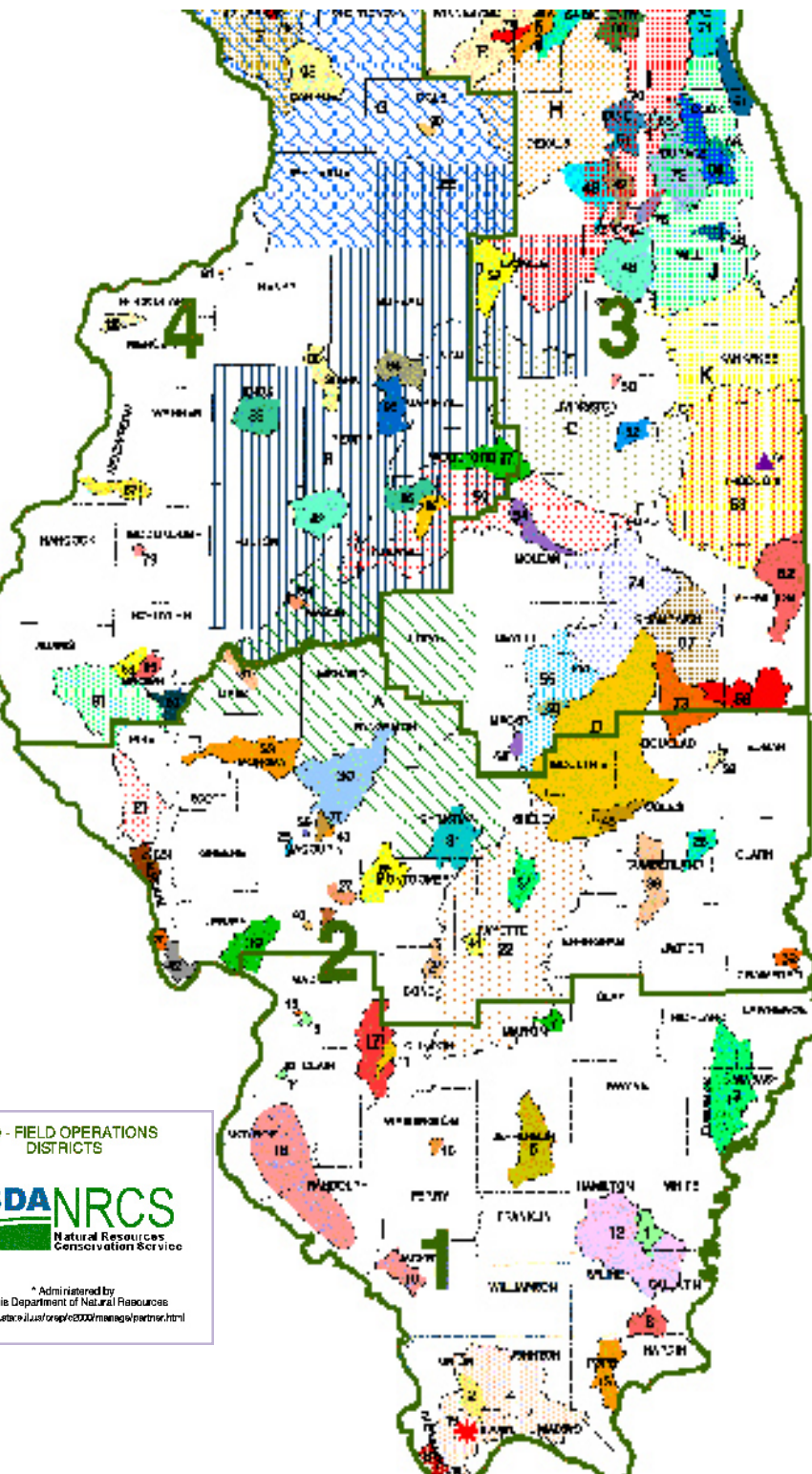
ILLINOIS LOCALLY LED RESOURCE PLANNING PROJECTS

AUGUST 2000

FOD - FIELD OPERATIONS
DISTRICTS

ISDANRCS
Natural Resources
Conservation Service

* Administered by
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
<http://dnr.state.il.us/nrcs/2000/mnag/partner.html>



Locally-Led Resource Planning Projects in Illinois

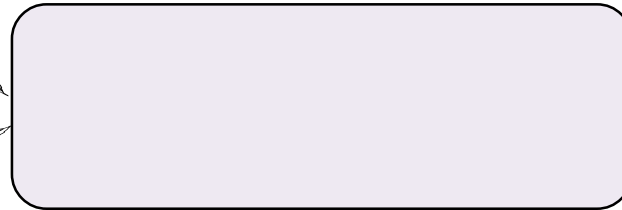
Resource Planning in Illinois is a collaborative problem solving and management process used by NRCS and Soil & Water Conservation Districts. Resource Planning is a "locally-led" process which brings citizens together on a voluntary basis to address common problems and work toward locally identified objectives.

In Illinois, NRCS and local SWCD's are working with local, state and federal partners to help more than 100 Planning Committees tackle issues with water quality and quantity, flooding, soil erosion and sedimentation, land use, wildlife management, and more.

The Illinois Locally-Led Resource Planning Map shows the location of these watershed projects throughout the state. The shaded areas represent different watershed activities in various phases of the planning process, ranging from information collection and data assembly to decision making and implementation. NRCS/SWCD services range from technical assistance to facilitation. These projects have one thing in common; in every case, the *local people* have initiated the process and are leading the project.

Submitted by Paul Krone
NRCS Environmental Specialist

Natural Resources Conservation Service
1902 Fox Drive
Champaign, IL 61820



Highlights:

- **Review of NPDES Phase II Workshops**
- **Visit the Silver Creek Watershed**
- **Who Is a Stakeholder?**
- **Watersheds on the Web**



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